



For Immediate Release

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Guide Dog Foundation and America's VetDogs Elects New Board Members

Smithtown, N.Y. (July 1, 2015) – The Guide Dog Foundation (www.GuideDog.org) and its sister organization, America's VetDogs (www.VetDogs.org), are pleased to announce the election of La Grande, OR resident and US National Guard Major Mary Porter, D.O. Porter will serve a two-year term as a member of the 28-member board, which sets strategic direction and policy to advance the organizations' work of providing guide and service dogs and training – free of charge – to people who are blind or have low vision, and to those who have served our country honorably.

"I am pleased to welcome Mary Porter D.O. as a new member of our Board," said Wells B. Jones, CEO of the Guide Dog Foundation and America's VetDogs. "Mary brings a new perspective to our board and offers a wealth of experience to the group. She can speak firsthand to the services we provide, as a graduate of the America's VetDogs Service Dog training program. She will be a tremendous asset to our organizations as we further our missions."

Porter, currently a Major in the US National Guard, a former Army surgeon and staff physician, and Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal for Heroism recipient, currently works as a physician in her hometown of La Grande, OR. and specializes in Family Medicine. Porter studied and trained at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine and Womack Army Medical Center.

The Guide Dog Foundation and America's VetDogs Boards of Directors are comprised of volunteer leaders from the medical; business; academic; military and veteran communities. The boards provide strategic direction, counsel and oversight to the operation of the organizations as well as raise awareness of their services.

About the Guide Dog Foundation

For more than 65 years, the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc., has trained and placed guide and service dogs to provide independence, enhanced mobility, and companionship to people who are blind, have low vision, or who have other special needs. The Guide Dog



Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that relies on contributions from generous individuals, corporations, service clubs, and foundations to fund its mission to serve people with disabilities. It costs over \$50,000 to breed, raise, train, and place one assistance dog, but the Guide Dog Foundation provides its services completely free of charge to the individual.

The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind was the first assistance dog school in the United States to be accredited by both the International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International.

To learn more or to donate, visit www.GuideDog.org.

About America's VetDogs®

Since 2003, America's VetDogs has trained and placed guide and service dogs to provide independence, enhanced mobility and companionship to veterans with disabilities from all eras. In 2015, VetDogs opened its programs to first responders, including of fire, police, and emergency medical personnel. America's VetDogs is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded by the Guide Dog Foundation that relies on contributions from generous individuals, corporations, service clubs, and foundations to fund its mission to help those who have served our country live with dignity and independence. It costs over \$50,000 to breed, raise, train, and place one assistance dog, but America's VetDogs provides its services completely free of charge to the individual.

America's VetDogs was the second assistance dog school in the United States to be accredited by both the International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International.

To learn more or to donate, visit www.VetDogs.org.